

HARDWICK CONSERVATION COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2020 MEETING

Present: Judith Ruskin, Ben Pougner, Renaud Demers, Ken Davis, Judy Bellairs

Absent: Jerry Schneider, Rachel Kane, Norma Wiesen

Visitor: Nancy Kellogg

The Agenda and Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Canopy grant. We received the requested amount of \$1405. The Town Manager will sign the Grant Agreement for us. At the next meeting we should discuss plans for pruning. We should find out if the Town has tools we can use.

Speaker/Event. Rachel spoke to Renaud about a youth fishing derby with prizes. Since there are already fishing derbies on Lake Elmore and at the Green Mountain Camp, it might be best for us to just focus on getting the word out about them instead of organizing our own.

Judith suggested a panel discussion with Rachel Smolker. She will bring more information to the next meeting. We would need to think about possible panelists.

Ben suggested that Michael Lew-Smith could talk about local plants and animals.

Tree giveaway. The Committee supported participation in the tree giveaway sponsored by the VT Urban and Community Forestry group. Is this something we could promote at SpringFest? What kind of trees will be offered? Judy or Rachel will find out more information.

Natural resource inventory discussion. Postponed until the next meeting.

Updates. Ben mentioned that some towns are removing ash trees and suggested another option would be to pollard them because that repels insects by promoting healthy new growth. Ben also wrote to Megan Luther, who is in charge of the curriculum at GMTCC, about collaborating. The Committee is interested in having her come to update us on the curriculum. Ken will see if Megan is available.

Renaud said that he has heard some concerns from residents about potential noise impacts of the rail trail and wondered about creating a vegetated screen in the right-of-way.

Action items:

Judith: contact Rachel Smolker

Ken: contact Megan Luther

Judy: find out more about the tree giveaway (timing, species, etc.)

Adjourned at 6:30 pm